

Kuenzi Barn
South side of a town road
approximately 2 miles west of the
village of Lebanon, approximately
1 mile east of County Trunk EM
Watertown Vicinity
Dodge County, Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-151

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

KUENZI BARN

Location: South side of a town road approximately 2 miles west of the village of Lebanon, approximately 1 mile east of County Trunk EM, Watertown Vicinity, Dodge County, Wis.

Present Owner: Leonard Kuenzi, Rt. 2, Watertown, Wis.

Present Occupant of the Farm: Leonard Kuenzi.

Present Use: Barn.

Brief Statement of Significance: This barn is one of few remaining examples of farm out-buildings built of German half-timber (Fachwerkbau) construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The chain of title has not been ascertained; all that is known is that an early owner was named Ferdinand Paetsch.
2. Date of erection: ca. 1850.
3. Builder: Possibly Ferdinand Paetsch.
4. Source of information
 - a. Interview with Mrs. Leonard Kuenzi, Rt. 2, Watertown, Wisconsin.
 - b. Richard W. E. Perrin, "'Fachwerkbau' Houses in Wisconsin," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XVIII, no. 1 (March, 1959), pp.29-33.

- B. Likely Sources not yet investigated: A search of the abstract would complete the chain of title but would probably add little to the history of the building.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a typical German half-timber barn, with red brick nogging manufactured in the neighboring vicinity of Hustisford.
2. Condition of fabric: Maintained in active use.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 20' x 46', 1-1/2 stories.
2. Foundations: Native fieldstone.
3. Wall construction: Framing members of native white oak, mortised, tenoned and pegged. Vertical members are continuous and rest on wood sill. Horizontal members frame into vertical members to form openings and support loft floor and roof. Nogging in framing panels of red Hustisford brick, are laid in two courses with only an occasional bond.
4. Chimneys: None.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Barn type, board and batten.
 - b. Windows: Small, 24" x 24", 6 light, fixed sash.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gabled, wood shingles.
 - b. Framing: 6" x 6" oak rafters resting on 7" x 9" top girt with 4" x 6" tie-beams on alternate rafters. Rafters 4' - 0", o.c. Gable ends closed with vertical boards and batten.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: The lower floor consists of two large rooms separated by a narrow center room which contains a stair. Interior partitions are framed with heavy timbers and

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brick nogging similar to exterior walls. The loft is open, but the floor over the center room is lowered approximately 2' - 0".

2. Stairways: One stairway in center room to loft.
3. Flooring: The lower floor is now concrete, but originally was wood on 8" x 10" joists resting on foundation walls. Loft floor: wood on heavy joists supported on framing girt except in the center room where the upper floor rests on logs.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Unfinished, exposed structure.
5. Doorways and doors: Single board and batten door.
6. Hardware: Mostly modern service type but two good pair of wrought iron strap hinges survive on the upper-part of the center barn door.
7. Lighting: None.
8. Heating: None.

D. General setting and orientation: Main axis north and south. The building is a working part of a typical Wisconsin farm group; no landscaping or other site improvements.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect,
National Park Service, 143 South Third
Street, Phila. 6, Pa. - August 1960

Additional Source of Information: Richard W. E. Perrin, "Historic Wisconsin Buildings, A Survey of Pioneer Architecture, 1835-1870," Lore, vol. X, no. 3 (Milwaukee: Friends of the Museum of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Summer, 1960), pp. 82-97.